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M. Manilii Astronomicon, Liber Tertius, Recensuit et Enarravit A. E. HOUSMAN, Londinii, apud Grant Richards, MDCCCXVI. Pp. XXVIII+72.

To his edition of Manilius Book I, published in 1903, Mr. Housman adds some passages of the text of Books II, III, and IV, with emendations of his own. In the present edition of Book III thirty-six asterisks occurring in the notes to thirty-four separate verses indicate the editor's conjectures. Twenty-three of these verses, including the words indicated by twenty-five asterisks, are in exact correspondence with the readings published in 1903 with the single exception of 'circum volitans' (vs. 369) for the earlier 'circumvolitans'. There remain then eleven passages in which the conjectures of 1916 differ from those of 1903. Six of these passages contain entirely new conjectures; the remaining five have been emended in a form slightly different from that of the earlier emendation. In the 1916 text there are seven instances of a return from earlier conjectures to the MS. tradition; and there is one instance of a similar return from a conjecture of Bentley's which Mr. Housman had previously accepted.

The earlier transposition of vs. 238 to a position between 233 and 234 is rejected; that of vss. 411, 412 between 407 and 408 is retained; and another transposition is made—that of vss. 473, 474, to a position between 467 and 468. Vss. 268–270 are bracketed both in the 1916 and in the earlier text. Vss. 317 and 508 are bracketed in the 1916 text. Mr. Housman adds four new verses, 216 A, 417 A, 549 A and 549 B.

Mr. Housman has already indicated his principles of emendation (Book I, pp. liii, liv): 'An emendator with one method is as foolish a sight as a doctor with one drug. The scribes knew and cared no more about us and our tastes than diseases care about the taste of doctors; they made mistakes not of one sort but of all sorts, and the remedies must be of all sorts too'. It follows from this that he has no especial system other than the system of 'res et ratio', which seems to be pretty consistently applied. It is of course clear that properly to appreciate all the conjectures would require a knowledge of the principles of text criticism and of the subject matter of Manilius equal to that of Mr. Housman; if such requirement were enforced upon the present reviewer this review would be delayed indefinitely. The editor's independence of judgment and keenness of vision can be seen on every page of the Commentary. Good examples of his manner of dealing with the text may be found in vss. 71, 121, 285, 507, to mention no others.

The Commentary is written in Latin, and has the same objects which the editor professed before (Book I, p. lxxii). 'This Com-

mentary is designed to treat of two matters only: what Manilius wrote, and what he meant.' The connection between the two is not always obvious, and Mr. Housman's learning and ingenuity have had reasonable scope for their exercise. Perhaps the most noticeable single achievement in the field of interpretation occurs at vs. 275, where he penetrates to the meaning of the Manilian 'stade'—an arc of the equator which takes two minutes to rise.

The subject matter of Manilius—to the average student perhaps the least important part of the present volume—is analysed in the Introduction, written in English. The Introduction and Commentary require to be compared at almost every line; and with their aid even the reader who is innocent of astrology can get a good idea of Manilius' discussion. Book III follows the doctrine of the zodiac and the dodecatropos of Book II with an exposition of the circle of the twelve *athla*, the method of finding the horoscope and kindred matters.

Those who search this volume for examples of Mr. Housman's earlier manner may find them; they are not conspicuous and therefore not irritating. He has apparently a greater admiration for the style of Manilius than for his intellectual honesty. On page XXI of the Introduction to Book I Manilius is referred to as 'the one Latin poet who excels even Ovid in verbal point and smartness'; on page VI of the Introduction to Book III we read 'Liars need not have long memories if they address themselves only to fools who have short ones; and an astrological poet writing his third book may safely forget his second, because an astrological reader will never remember it'. And on page XIX Manilius is referred to as 'facile and frivolous'. Various bits from the Commentary are: 611, Si me Manilius usus esset consultore; 414, Librae Sidera (id est, quod Iacobi et puerorum causa dico, Libra), 451 (of Scaliger's comments) quamquam ne has quidem nugas tanto opere admiror quam Bentlei silentium; 617, Fayus et Bechertus Gemblacensi obsecuti sunt, natali, ut opinor, morbo tracti; Breiterus sua semita delirare maluit.

However, Mr. Housman is unique. He understands the subject matter of Manilius, and as a text critic is inferior to nobody. The Third Book maintains his previous high standard of severe scholarship. Those who object to his sarcasm may take refuge in his learning; and those who grow weary of the intellectual labor required to comprehend either Housman or Manilius should find recreation in the occasional eloquence of the author and the rather more frequent wit of his editor.

EDWARD W. NICHOLS.